

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:GTWOHIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL DORADO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 283065

EXDIS, TOSEC 51

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 20122 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DATED
28 DECEMBER 1974:

QTE

S E C R E T BANGKOK 20122

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: THANOM'S RETURN

REF: STATE 283024

1. IN ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR, WHO IS OUT OF THE CITY, FOREIGN
MINISTER CHARUNPHAN CALLED DCM AT 2230 HOURS SATURDAY DECEMBER 28
TO INFORM US THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD DECIDED THANOM SHOULD LEAVE
IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER TO PREVENT SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN LAW
AND ORDER SITUATION.

2. CHARUNPHAN THEN ASKED DCM WHETHER WE COULD TRANSPORT THANOM
AND HIS WIFE OUT OF THAILAND ON A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH
WOULD BE GOING TO THE U.S. ANYWAY. DCM SAID THIS WOULD CREATE
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MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS. IT WOULD FOCUS ATTENTION ON U.S. MILITARY

PRESENCE AND U.S. USE OF THAI BASES IN A HIGHLY UNFAVORABLE WAY AND WOULD ALSO LEAVE US OPEN TO CHARGES BY STUDENTS AND OTHERS THAT WE HAD SPIRITED THANOM OUT OF THE COUNTRY. DCM NOTED THIS WAS A THAI PROBLEM AND COULD BEST BE HANDLED BY RTG ITSELF. CHARUNPHAN AGREED RTG WOULD DO SO, EITHER BY REGULAR COMMERCIAL FLIGHT OUT OF BANGKOK OR SPECIAL THAI INTERNATIONAL AIRLIFT.

3. IN REPLY TO QUESTION BY FOREIGN MINISTER, DCM SAID WE WOULD GRANT VISAS TO THANOM AND HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY ON SAME BASIS AS IN OCTOBER 1973 IN RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM THE RTG.

4. CHARUNPHAN CALLED BACK LATER TO SAY HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THAT IT WAS AGREED THANOM AND HIS WIFE WOULD DEPART ON AIR SIAM FLIGHT LEAVING BANGKOK ABOUT 0800 HOURS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 ENROUTE TO LOS ANGELES BY WAY OF HONG KONG, TOKYO AND HONOLULU. IN REPLY TO QUESTION CHARUNPHAN SAID MILITARY TRIBUNAL WHICH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HAD ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY WOULD CONSIDER THANOM'S FATE WOULD DO SO THAT EVENING AND WOULD CONCLUDE THAT HE SHOULD LEAVE AT ONCE. THIS WOULD COMPLETE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

5. VISAS WERE INSERTED IN PASSPORTS OF THANOM AND HIS WIFE AT 0300 HOURS DECEMBER 29. RTG APPARENTLY PLANS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS DEPARTURE ABOUT 0900 HOURS AFTER DEPARTURE OF AIR SIAM FLIGHT. IF ASKED WE PLAN TO SAY WE HAVE ISSUED VISAS FOR U.S. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM RTG. KINTNER UNQTE BROWN

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